

Bigfork Steering Committee Minutes
April 10, 2008
bigforksteering.org
(draft)
Community Forum

In attendance: Craig Wagner, Pat Wagner, Gary Ridderhoff, Edd Blackler, Elna Darrow, John Bourquin, Steve Zabaro, Bruce Solberg, Cheryl Richmond, Gordon Graham, Alex Strickland, Paul Rana, John Lang, Paul Mustacio, Joyce Mitchell, Leslie Budewitz, John Bourquin, Jan Krause, Katrin Frye, Joe Brenneman, George Darrow

Chairman Craig Wagner called the meeting to order at 12: 03

Introductions were made

Agenda: The motion was made to adopt the agenda as emailed. Motion Passed

Minutes: The minutes were approved as emailed (m/sc Darrow, E. /Solberg) Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report: No report Balance remains the same.

Community Forum: Paul Mutascio mentioned they get their money from their principal fund raiser, the Auction at the Garden Bar. Last year's auction was the best they had.

Resort Tax Committee: Attached is a copy of the Power Point presentation Bruce opened by explaining the steps they went through to get to this point. Several of the resorts were surprised to learn we didn't already have a resort tax. Their question to "why a resort tax? was why not a resort tax?" It does so much good for resorts that have to rely on a county for funds that have to be shared by all the county offices and communities. John Lang then explained each page in the presentation. Ken Weaver, the expert consultant on resort taxes keeps a close eye on the cities and predicted Whitefish would come up with 5.6 million this year and he was just about right on. He predicts our first year could be \$500,000.00 to \$750,000.00 and the merchants participating would receive 5% of that back. The resort tax is based on a population of 2500. So two areas have been drawn out that have less than 2500 in population and we have the maps for you. If you have any questions about this presentation please call Cheryl Richmond at the Sleeping Bear at 837-1447 or 837-3735. She has been with the committee since it started their investigation. Since most of the committee members reside outside the proposed area it is felt that should we want to proceed with this endeavor, a new committee be appointed from those members that reside within the proposed area. The first item to start this advancing is to write a letter to the County Commissioners requesting to have us declared a resort. A motion was made to draft this letter and mail it out. (Ms/sc Gough//Mitchell) Motion Passed A sample use for this taxis Bigfork Water and Sewer needs to upgrade their sewer system because of the summer tourist season but in the winter we are fine. Why shouldn't the tourists help pay for the upgrade. The impact on the locals would be in restaurants and bars. A 3% tax was recommended as most of the tourists pay 6 % to 8.75 in their home states. Another note: Seeley Lake is going forth to obtain one and now Polson is interested in receiving more information on the Resort Tax.

Joe Brenneman: We held our first Public Storm Water meeting 2 weeks ago and will be having our second Public Meeting on April 23, 2008 at 7:00 pm at Community United Methodist Church 750 Electric Avenue. The discussion will center on applying for a

Treasure State Grant and the deadline is May 2, 2008 and will not be available for another 2 years. This grant requires matching funds and will need a small bond issue of about \$750,000.00.

On the Township or Village Township idea he has talked to an Assistant to Governor Schweitzer and a couple of legislators and has gotten all positive answers.

Lake County Planning: They are moving forward to create an advisory board in their area which resembles the shape Of Maryland. They will be having public meetings in July and August.

Vision Committee: The problem we have is we come up with practical ideas but we have no funds to put them in place and we also come up with idealistic ideas. So we are going to come up with a questionnaire and send it out to the different organizations. We will then try to put the results on paper.

Storm water Committee: Given by Joe Brenneman

Chairman's Report: Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) would like to give a presentation to BSC and Bigfork Citizens on Forest Management. Craig has suggested holding it in a June evening meeting when our summer residents are here. Paul Rana mentioned there is big difference between DNRC and State Forestry.

Craig reported on the Bigfork Neighborhood Plan's appearance at the Flathead County Planning Board the night before. We were last on the agenda of which had 3 items. The Mildren Zone Change at 395 Swan River Rd took a very long time. It was very confusing as they all said there was no room for density due to ground water. They also need soil and ground water testing which has not been done but finally passed it with a vote of 5 to 4.

BJ Grieve presented our plan, told of all the meetings we held, showed all the public comments we had, newspaper coverage of the meetings and public notices.

Craig spoke as the Applicant and turned it over to Shelley as she was the Chairman. She spoke on how we went about doing the rewrite of the 1993 plan. John Bourquin changed his Incorporation figures from 67% to 27%. Public Comment--- Charles Lapp who used to be on the County Planning and Zoning Board then addressed the board. He came up with a list of 15 items that he said needed to be redone or left out. There were a couple of errors that need to be redone, and some items that may have to be reworded. Erica Wirtela, working for Sands Engineering also stepped up with a couple items. It was suggested that we come back to a workshop meeting with the county board. It will be June 25, 2008 at 6:00 pm Gene Dizza praised our neighborhood plan as being the best he has ever seen and wished that all neighborhood plans were like ours. The meeting was pushed back so that we will have Flatheads decision on the recent Supreme Court ruling on Neighborhood Plans.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Announcements: Swan River Community Hall Annual Pie Auction April 11, 2008 at 7:30 pm Featured auction: A pie a month for a full year. On the corner of Echo Lake Rd/Swan River Rd Admission one pie or \$5.00 per family—Pie slices \$2.00, a la mode \$2.50. Proceeds go to continuing renovation for this Historical Hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:37

Pat Wagner, Secretary